

Bible Readings Week 256- w/c 3/10/21

Monday: Acts 25:1-27. Paul was not willing to allow his freedom to share his faith to be stopped by unproven allegations. Instead, he used his legal right as a Roman citizen. But he was also trusting God's promise to him in Acts 23:11. Are we as willing to stand up for our legal rights to live out our faith in an increasingly hostile society?

Tuesday: Job 38:1-41. When God speaks to Job he doesn't answer the questions Job wants answering. Instead, he asks a series of questions of Job that make him realise his limitations and weakness. He is humbled but not humiliated, as God brings him to realise his own inadequacies - the starting point of faith. We trust God for what we can't accomplish alone. What do you need to trust him for today?

Wednesday: Esther 6:1-14. When the King tells Haman to honour Mordecai, he felt humiliated, but only because he regarded Mordecai as his enemy. He was so self-absorbed that he automatically assumed it was all about him! We are called to honour others above ourselves and to not think too highly of ourselves (Romans 12:3,10). What does this mean for you today?

Thursday: Proverbs 31:10-22. These verses must be understood according to the culture of the day, where a wife's value was entirely as a home builder, unlike in our culture. But it still has something to teach us. In our superficial society we must value people for who they are and what they do, as in these verses, and not on the basis of outward appearance or beauty that is only skin deep.

Friday: Zechariah 14:1-21. "That day" refers to the day when God's kingdom is fully established, and judgement is applied to those who refuse to honour God as their Lord and King (v9). We must live like this in the "here and now" by faith, as a preparation for life in the "there and then". The same Jesus who will be Lord and King over all on "that day", must be our Lord and King today, ruling over all our choices, lifestyle and actions.

Weekend: Revelation 18:1-24. Luxury is referred to 3 times in this chapter. It is never mentioned in scripture in a favourable way. We must beware falling into the trap of consumerism and capitalism represented by Babylon. God has blessed even the poorest in our society with riches that many in our world could only dream about. Make sure you are generous and wise in giving and spending what God has given you. Every luxury is always a test of faith – will you pass or fail the test?